

Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claims 1-2, 6-8, 10-12 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann II et al. (US Patent No. 5,577,186) in view of Massachusetts Department of Education.

In the Response to Arguments, the Office Action states, "...in column 4, lines 48-51, Mann discloses, '...because the program provides the same user interface, independent of the computer application software it is teaching, it provides the user with a familiar point of reference.' Thus, Mann discloses the feature of presenting a generic user interface having elements common to several different software packages of a particular type of software application."

However, this statement seems to contradict itself. Mann states, "the program provides the same user interface, *independent of the computer application software it is teaching...*" it would seem impossible for it to present 'a generic user interface having elements common to several different software packages *of a particular type of software application.*' The text just before the cited text states, "Because the system of the present invention provides a generic interface to *any computer application software*, the system may be used to teach users of on-line services in the use of services as well as many other computer applications [emphasis added]."

Mann discloses a teaching application that presents the same user interface regardless of *the type* of computer application software being taught, as the text of many says *any*. In the instant application, prior to amendment, the claims required "having elements common to several different software packages of *a particular type of software application.*" Applicants submit that

a generic user interface *to any computer application software* is not a generic user interface that is based upon *a particular type of software application*.

However, in order to further the progress of the application, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, 17 and 19 to more clearly show that the user interface for each type of application is different, namely “wherein the user interface for one type of software application is different from a user interface for a different type of software application...” This is not shown, taught or suggested by Mann, and the Massachusetts Dept. of Education reference does not overcome this deficiency. Support for this amendment is shown in the current specification on pages 4-5 among others.

It is therefore submitted that claims 1-2, 6-8, 10-12 and 17-19 are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of these claims is requested.

Claims 3-5, 9 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mann II et al. in view of Massachusetts Department of Education and further in view of Cook et al. (US 5,727,950).

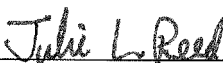
Cook is directed to a ‘try again’ feature and does not overcome the combination of references for the reasons as applied to claims 1, 8, 17 and 19 above. Claims 3-5, 9 and 13-16 have been amended in a similar fashion to claim 1, set out above. It is therefore submitted that these claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art and allowance of these claims is requested.

No new matter has been added by this amendment. Allowance of all claims is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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